

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01
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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG

REF: A) TOKYO 10943; B) TOKYO 6789; C) TOKYO 6284

1. WITH THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION JULY 12 OF THE CONTACT
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GROUP'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH SWAPO, WE HOPE TO MOVE QUICKLY
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SECURE APPROVAL OF THE
CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL AND SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS
OF ESTABLISHING THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
GROUP (UNTAG) IN NAMIBIA. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT THE
INITIAL SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE ON
JULY 24.

2. IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF JAPANESE INTEREST IN MAKING A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF UNTAG, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD URGE THE JAPANESE TO EXPEDITE THEIR PLANNING SO THAT THEY CAN BE READY TO RESPOND TO A POSSIBLE REQUEST FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE JAPANESE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF PROVIDING SOME INTERNAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, PERHAPS IN THE FORM OF HELICOPTERS,

PILOTS AND SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT. THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH UNTAG WILL FACE IN NAMIBIA MAKE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION VERY VALUABLE.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE, SEEK TO ASCERTAIN THE STATUS OF JAPANESE PLANNING, AND URGE THAT, IN VIEW OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT UNTAG WILL COME INTO OPERATION DURING THE FIRST HALF OF AUGUST, THE JAPANESE MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY. YOU MIGHT ADD THE FOLLOWING:

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION COULD INDEED BE CRITICAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NAMIBIA OPERATION. SUCH A CONTRIBUTION BY JAPAN WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND TO THE UN GENERALLY

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JAPAN'S CAPACITY TO ASSIST IN DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

-- SUCH A SPECIALIZED ROLE FOR JAPAN CAN BE UNDERTAKEN IN A CIVILIAN CAPACITY. THE UN TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP IS STRUCTURED AS A CIVILIAN-LED OPERATION, WITH A MILITARY COMPONENT.

-- (IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT USEFUL) THE US PLANS TO AIR-LIFT UNTAG TROOPS TO NAMIBIA AND TO ABSORB THE COST OF THE AIRLIFT RATHER THAN CHARGING IT TO THE UN. WE HOPE THAT JAPAN WILL ALSO ABSORB THE COST OF THE SERVICES IT WOULD PROVIDE.

-- WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK WILL BE WILLING TO BRING JAPAN UP TO DATE ON ITS PLANNING FOR UNTAG SO THAT JAPAN CAN MAKE A PROMPT DECISION ON ITS CONTRIBUTION.

4. FOR USUN. SHOULD JAPANESE APPROACH CONTACT GROUP FOR DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT WE SEEK TO STEER JAPANESE IN

DIRECTION OF PROVIDING NOT ONLY HELICOPTERS, BUT INTERNAL

AIR TRANSPORT GENERALLY. CONTACT GROUP MIGHT POINT
OUT TO JAPANESE ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF UNTAG EFFICIENCY
IF ONE COUNTRY UNDERTAKES THIS TASK.
CHRISTOPHER

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